

Message Text

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42

ACTION PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIE-00 SS-20 CCO-00 NSCE-00

USSS-00 SSO-00 NSC-10 SY-10 A-01 OC-06 DRC-01 RSC-01

/061 W

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R 081050Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5551

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 13959

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESS TRAVELLING WITH SECRETARY'S
PARTY

REF: STATE 239742

FOLLOWING IS POST'S RESPONSE TO POINTS ENUMERATED IN REFTTEL.

1. POST ASSUMES PRESS PARTY WILL NOT REQUIRE HOTEL
ACCOMMODATIONS DURING BEIRUT STOPOVER.

2. AND 3. (A) MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAS AGREED TO SET UP
PRESS CENTER ON CENTRALLY LOCATED MINISTRY PREMISES.
CENTER WILL CONSIST OF SIX ROOMS AS FOLLOWS: LARGE
CONFERENCE/BRIEFING/PRESS ROOM WITH TYPEWRITERS; ONE
TELEPHONE ROOM WITH ONE INSTRUMENT; TWO TELEPHONE ROOMS
WITH TWO INSTRUMENTS EACH; SMALL TYPING ROOM; TELEX
TRANSMISSION ROOM WITH THREE KEYBOARD POSITIONS.

(B) MINISTRY PLANS TO STAFF PRESS CENTER FULLY THROUGHOUT
WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 15-16 WITH TYPISTS, TELEX OPERATORS,
AND BILINGUAL TELEPHONE OPERATORS. USIS ASSISTANT
INFORMATION OFFICER ROBERT HALL AND SEVERAL MEMBERS OF
LOCAL USIS STAFF WILL ALSO BE ON HAND.

(C) MINISTRY NORMALLY ACCEPTS "INTERNATIONAL CREDIT CARD
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FOR TELEGRAPH SERVICES" OF INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS

UNION FOR TELEX TRANSMISSIONS AND WILL ACCEPT RCA CREDIT CARD DURING STOPOVER AS WELL.

(C) FOR BROADCAST TRANSMISSIONS, COLLECT TELEPHONE CALLS WITH EXCELLENT VOICE QUALITY CAN NORMALLY BE BOOKED WITH MINIMUM DELAY. MINISTRY IS IN ANY CASE REQUESTING PRIORITY LINES FOR PRESS CENTER.

(E) WITH REGARD TO TRANSMITTAL OF TV FILM TO U.S., NORMAL LOCAL PRACTICE IS TO SHIP FILM ON DAILY 11 A.M. MIDDLE EAST AIRLINES FLIGHT TO LONDON FOR TRANSMISSION TO U.S. BY SATELLITE IN AMPLE TIME FOR EVENING NEWSCASTS. HOWEVER, FILM MUST BE AT AIRPORT BY 10 A.M. UNLESS COURIER ACCOMPANIES IT. SINCE THIS PROBABLY PRECLUDES ANY TRANSMITTAL OF FILM FROM BEIRUT DURING STOPOVER, CORRESPONDENTS MAY PREFER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSMITTAL FROM NEXT STOP.

(F) POST NOTES THAT FOURTEEN OF SIXTEEN IN PRESS PARTY HAVE REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS RESIDENT IN BEIRUT (EXCEPTIONS ARE WALL STREET JOURNAL AND WASHINGTON STAR-NEWS). MANY OF THESE FOURTEEN MAY PREFER TO DEAL WITH THEIR LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE INSTEAD OF WITH MINISTRY'S PRESS CENTER.

(G) WITH REGARD TO POOL PHOTOGRAPHER, UPI-BEIRUT IS CHECKING ON RADIOPHOTO TRANSMISSION ARRANGEMENTS AND MAY USE NEW TRANSMITTER LOCATED ON AP PREMISES INSTEAD OF COMMERCIAL RADIO ORIENT FACILITIES.

4. POST WILL HAVE USIS WIRELESS FILE, AS WELL AS REUTER AND UPI COPY, AVAILABLE AT PRESS CENTER.

5. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND POST ARE PREPARING PACKET OF RELEVANT BACKGROUND MATERIAL FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PRESS PARTY ON ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT.

6. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION HAS AGREED TO PLACE FIVE TAXIS AT DISPOSAL OF PRESS PARTY DURING ENTIRE STOPOVER. THIS
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WILL ENSURE FLEXIBILITY OF MOVEMENT FOR CORRESPONDENTS WISHING TO USE PRESS CENTER OR TOUCH BASE WITH RESIDENT CORRESPONDENT COLLEAGUES. POST WILL HAVE TWO BACKUP VEHICLES AVAILABLE FOR PRESS PARTY AS WELL. POST DOES NOT EXPECT THAT LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WILL PERMIT MEMBERS OF PRESS TO FOLLOW OFFICIAL PARTY TO SITE OF TALKS.

7. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION WILL PROVIDE SANDWICHES,

COFFEE, ETC. AS PART OF PRESS CENTER OPERATION. GOOD
RESTAURANT IS LOCATED ACROSS STREET.

8. USIS INFORMATION OFFICER CHRISTOPHER ROSS WILL BE
AVAILABLE TO ASSIST RM. VEST ON FULL-TIME BASIS.

9. ON SEPARATE MATTER, POST IS AWAITING CLARIFYING
GUIDANCE WITH REGARD TO SECRETARY'S PROPOSED DEPARTURE
STATEMENT. AS SCENARIO IS PRESENTLY UNFOLDING,
ANY DEPARTURE STATEMENT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE AT AIRPORT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BEIRUT13959
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731236/aaaabaik.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION PRS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 239742
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Jan-2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <18-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRESS TRAVELLING WITH SECRETARY'S PARTY
TAGS: OVIP, LE, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005